

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 23, 24, 33 and 34 are pending in this application and have been allowed.
Claims 1, 2, 23, 24, 33 and 34 are independent.

By this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, Applicants seek to make minor formal changes to claims 23, 24, 33, and 34. Specifically, in claims 23 and 24, step “(b)(iii)(b)” has been changed to “(b)(iii)(B)” to conform with the numbering system of the claims. Also, in claims 33 and 34, step “(c)(iii)(b)” has been changed to “(c)(iii)(B)” to conform with the numbering system of the claims. Finally, in claim 24, “form” has been replaced with “forms” to correct a grammatical error and “a linear” has been replaced with “the linear” to provide proper antecedent basis.

No new matter has been added, and the proposed changes are not believed to raise any issues requiring further consideration by the Examiner.

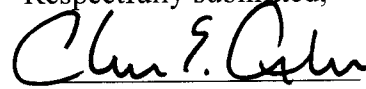
CONCLUSION

The changes proposed herein improve the form of the claim by eliminating potential ambiguities, and are not believed to raise any new issues for consideration, or require additional work by the Examiner. The Issue Fee has not yet been paid, and so entry of this Amendment is proper.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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